

# EPCC NEWS

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center  
Volume 19, Issue 3  
August 2019

The Joint Commission Accredited  
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"Helping Kids SOAR"



Our youngsters enjoyed an action-packed Summer Break week schedule during the weeks of May 27—31 and again on July 29—Aug 6. It was a wonderful way for the kids to relax and gear down from the rigorous school year during the first week, and have some fun time during the second week before returning to school!

During the week of July 29, the children enjoyed a visit from the Vanderburgh Humane Society. The folks from VHS demonstrated proper pet care. The ladies from Hoops of a Feather came to our gymnasium and put on a fantastic hula hoop demonstration!

EPCC Recreation Therapy staff came up with some creative games and activities for the kids to do, such as Slip-N-Slide Kickball and other water play, Red Light-Green Light, trampoline jumping, and a fun opportunity to get messy while receiving much needed sensory input with Shaving Cream play! Our Occupational Therapist provided many more sensory activities such as an obstacle course, canvas art, and Minds in Motion, and direct care staff provided many activities such as games of tag, coloring, word search/hidden picture puzzles, board games, and sidewalk chalk. Our Art Therapist provided art activities, and the kids created mindfulness posters with staff.

A trip to Swonder Ice Rink for ice skating and watching the premiere of Aladdin at Showplace Cinemas were perfect finishing touches to the break schedules. A big thank you goes out to all EPCC staff, interns, volunteers, and friends who made the children's summer extra special!



Kids receive the best in education services while they are enrolled at EPCC. Part of our curriculum is to provide a Summer Enrichment program every summer for our children to boost their learning abilities and keep their skill sets sharp.

Our Summer Enrichment Program is provided by two EVSC teachers. We are grateful to have our teachers who return each year to help our kids practice the skills they have learned all year, and provide lessons on interesting subjects such as All About Me, Sports, Plants and Animals, the USA, Under the Sea, Safety and First Responders, and Careers/Occupations.

The children also participated in special Recreation Therapy programming held in the gym each day after Summer Enrichment, as they do every year. We feel that not only academic education is important to continue year round, but we work hard to supplement the children's physical education year round as well. We are fortunate to have a wonderful gymnasium and playground on our campus to provide opportunities for our kids to experience plenty of fresh air and sunshine.

Thank you to the Summer Enrichment teachers and EPCC staff who made a fantastic summer happen!



It's that time of year once again! We say goodbye to leisurely summer days filled with sun and fun, and resume our routine of attending classes and working hard to make the grade. Although they had an action-packed summer break, EPCC's children are excited about starting a brand new school year. EPCC is very fortunate to have children who look forward to learning. We are also fortunate to have Special Education-certified teachers and teacher's assistants from the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation to educate our children and get them ready to return to their home community and school district. Our teachers and teachers assistants work hard to make sure our children don't get left behind while they are in treatment here, and to make sure they don't miss a beat when they walk back into the classroom.

Our kids are placed in either of our two classrooms according to their grade level and academic level, they are given individual learning goals and lesson plans according to their Individual Education Plan (IEP). We have seen many children greatly improve their reading levels, mathematics skills, and grammar and writing skills from the quality instruction they receive while enrolled at EPCC.

If you would like to donate basic school supplies for our kids to use throughout the school year, please drop them by the Administration Building at EPCC any time Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The children thank you in advance!





EPCC is very fortunate to have a beautiful campus bordered by parts of the Wesselman Woods and Pigeon Creek areas. Our campus includes acres of green space that we utilize for our playground, gardens, flower beds, etc. However, a lot of our grounds are wooded areas that have been underutilized...until now.

We were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with IU School of Medicine in Evansville, particularly their Alumni Association, in order to create a beautiful Nature Trail on which EPCC's children can spend time walking, enjoying sunshine and shade, fresh air, and learning about nature.

On Saturday, August 10th, several volunteers started out bright and early in the morning with clearing away brush and debris in order to carve out a nice pathway for enjoying the beautiful nature scene. Once everything was determined clear and safe for children and staff to enjoy, another crew of approximately 30 volunteers, all IUSOM students, arrived promptly at 1:00 in the afternoon to spread mulch to create a nice soft, safe surface for the trail, and to double-check the area for safety and tidiness.

After all the work was completed, the trail was made official by dedicating it with a plaque created by our psychiatrist, Dr. Shannon Jones. This nature trail was her wish, and the IUSOM students, Alumni Association Director and friends made it happen.

After the dedication, the children were escorted by staff to the trail. This trail was a surprise to them up to this point. They were very excited! Some comments that were heard from the children were "This is so cool!", "I can't wait to

walk through the woods!", and "I'm ready to find all the bugs!"

The kids and staff of EPCC would like to sincerely thank Aaron Costlow, IUSOM med student and Amber Embrey, IUSOM Director of Alumni Association for organizing this project with us, and all other med students and friends who generously gave of their time, talents, equipment, and energy to work in the summer heat and make this wish a reality. The trail is greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed by our kids for years to come.

Stand by for news on Phase 2 of this project! Possibly more trails to come!



Pictured (clockwise): IUSOM Alumni and Dr. Shannon Jones ; Nature Trail dedication plaque ; Dr. Jones, students, and kids taking their maiden voyage on the trail.



**We're Ready for Your Referrals**

Refer through the assigned liaison from your MHC.  
Referral packet information needed includes:

Psychology Evaluation with IQ  
State Hospital Referral Form  
CANS

Psychiatric Evaluation from your MD

Contact Sharon Austin at 812-477-6436, x226

**MISSION**  
Resolve Needs – Build Strengths

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Published periodically for employees and friends of EPCC.

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center  
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